

Plastic and metal containers

CSA standard B144 for plastic portable containers came into being in 1969 and was mandatory from that date. CSA standard B252 for metal portable containers followed in 1971, and became mandatory for sale in 1973 and for filling in 1976.

Under Ontario Regulation 941/74, plastic or metal portable containers must bear the approved ULC or CSA label before they may be filled at a gasoline outlet.

Portable fuel tanks

Portable fuel tanks for marine use, whether plastic or metal, must be labelled CSA or ULC for sale in the province. At present, it is not required that they be labelled for filling.

Metal drums

New approved drums have a CTC or DOT mark embossed in the metal on the bottom of the drum. Older drums may be embossed with BTC (Board of Transport Commissioners) or ICC (Interstate Commerce Commission) both of which are approved markings.

Jerry cans

Although not in general use, some jerry cans are in existence and there has been confusion about the legality of filling them. If they are in good condition and complete with gasket and proper closure they may be filled provided they are embossed DOT-5L, CTC-5L, BTC-5L, or ICC-5L.

Approval for pre-1973 containers

All metal portable containers on the market before Jan. 1, 1973 were tested. None passed the new requirements. Therefore, no pre-1973 metal containers are certified.

Safety cans

"Safety cans" which are in limited use for industrial purposes have a spring-loaded closure designed to open at a pre-determined internal pressure. They may be filled, but the owners should be warned that there is a potential hazard if they carry such cans inside a vehicle or in an automobile trunk.

For additional copies write:

Consumer Information Centre
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations
555 Yonge Street, main floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2H6
(416) 963-1111

Consumer Services Bureaus

250 Windsor Ave., 6th floor
Windsor, Ontario
N9A 6V9
(519) 254-6413

80 Dundas St. E.
P.O. Box 5600
London, Ontario
N6A 2P3
(519) 679-7150

143 Main Street East, Room 206
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 1G4
(416) 529-8177

555 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2H6
(416) 963-0321

139 George Street North
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 3G6
(705) 743-8728

1673 Carling Avenue, Suite 102
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 1C4
(613) 725-1489

199 Larch St., 5th Floor
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 5P9
(705) 675-4378

435 James St. S.
P.O. Box 5000
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7C 5G6
(807) 475-1641

REP 10/80 - 100M

3 1761 11469799 8

Portable gasoline containers: five types you must use

Since Jan. 1, 1976, only approved portable containers are to be filled at service stations, marinas and other gasoline outlets. Because some confusion exists about what constitutes an approved container, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations has prepared this information sheet for consumers and for operators and employees who handle petroleum products in portable containers.



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

CA28N
CC
-Z303

Portable gasoline containers

There are five types of containers which may be filled at Ontario gasoline outlets:

- Portable containers of metal or plastic, one gallon to five gallons in size. These containers must bear the label of ULC (Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada) or CSA (Canadian Standards Association). They must also be in reasonable condition and have all necessary caps in place.
- Portable fuel tanks for marine use. These may be metal or plastic and may contain up to seven gallons. Those sold after Aug. 1, 1975 will bear a ULC or CSA label. Those sold before that date have no such label.
- Transportation containers. These are metal drums, 10 to 45 gallons in size bearing an embossed mark in the metal on the bottom of the can. The mark may be ICC, DOT, BTC or CTC, followed by the designation 5, 5A, 5B, 5C or 5M.
- Metal jerry cans. These are World War II style cans which are marked in the same manner as the metal drums. They must be in reasonable condition and have the required gasket and closure in place. The mark will be ICC, DOT, BTC or CTC followed by 5L.
- Safety cans recognized by The Industrial Safety Act for industrial uses.

Background

The Gasoline Handling Act was first drafted in 1966 before the proliferation of container types; the container in general use was a red-painted metal can with yellow markings. The can was originally intended for syrup and was not designed to prevent the escape of gasoline in liquid or vapor form.

Because of accident reports from across Canada involving these and similar containers, standards were created to provide safer containers for petroleum products. To meet these standards, all containers are subjected to rigorous testing by Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada or by Canadian Standards Association.

These portable gasoline containers are allowed

1. Containers of metal or plastic, one to five gallons, bearing the ULC or CSA label and with all the necessary caps in place.
2. Portable fuel tanks of metal or plastic up to seven gallons in size for marine use.
3. Metal jerry cans, or metal drums 10 to 45 gallons in size, bearing the appropriate embossed BTC, CTC, ICC or DOT mark. Must have required gasket and closure in place.

